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16 February 1999
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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia issued by the Presidency of the European Union on 11 February 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

99-04027 (E) 160299 160299

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia issued in Brussels on 11 February 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

It is with dismay and the utmost disappointment that the European Union has noted the recent outbreak of open war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The tireless efforts of the international community, in particular of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), have thus been frustrated.

The European Union vehemently condemns the use of force by the two countries and urges them to respect the airstrike moratorium to which both sides have committed themselves.

The European Union expresses its strong support for Security Council resolution 1227 (1999), in particular the call for all States to end immediately all sales of arms and munitions to Ethiopia and Eritrea. It calls upon both parties to the conflict to halt the conflagration immediately. It is imperative that further loss of human life and material destruction be prevented, in particular that the safety of the civilian population be assured, and that the path to a negotiated settlement of the conflict be reopened.

As a first step, the two sides are called upon to agree unilaterally to a cessation of hostilities.

The European Union commends the work of OAU and encourages the OAU Heads of State and Secretary-General to make every effort to bring about an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and to resume their mediation process, and it continues to support these efforts.

The European Union stands ready to provide assistance and to dispatch for this purpose a special Troika mission in order to promote a rapid solution to the conflict on the basis of the OAU framework agreement proposals.

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to his summary statement of 15 January 1999 on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/1999/25) and to the note of 29 August 1996 by the President of the Security Council on the simplification of the list of matters of which the Council is seized (S/1996/704). Because of their vital importance, the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to have the items set forth hereunder retained on the list of matters of which the Council is seized.

10. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).

18. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).

24. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).

25. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914 and Add.33).

27. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

30. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991).

33. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364).

The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would be most grateful if the Secretary-General could have this note circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1186 (1998)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998) of 21 July 1998, by which the Council decided to authorize an increase in the troop strength of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) up to 1,050 and to extend its mandate for a period of six months until 28 February 1999, including to continue by its presence to deter threats and prevent clashes, to monitor the border areas, and to report to the Secretary-General any developments which could pose a threat to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including the tasks of monitoring and reporting on illicit arms flows and other activities that are prohibited under resolution 1160 (1998). The present report covers developments in the mission area since my last two reports of 1 June and 14 July 1998 (S/1998/454 and S/1998/644).

II. COMPOSITION, STRENGTH AND MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

2. During the period under review, the mandate of UNPREDEP has remained unchanged. The mission is headed by my Special Representative, Fernando Valenzuela Marzo, who succeeded Henryk J. Sokalski on 9 January 1999 (see S/1998/1191 and S/1998/1192). The military component is headed by the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ove Strømberg (Norway).

3. The increase in UNPREDEP's military component by 300 all ranks, authorized by the Security Council in resolution 1186 (1998), was completed by the beginning of January 1999, thus bringing its strength to 1,050 troops (see annex). At the same time, the total number of observation posts and patrol bases has been increased from 8 to 16, all of which are situated at strategic locations and sensitive points along the borders with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Reconfiguration of the augmented military component and the increase in the number of observation posts and patrol bases have enabled UNPREDEP to fulfil its mission in the entire area of responsibility.

4. The military component consists of two mechanized infantry battalions: a Nordic composite battalion and a United States Army task force, with 650 and 350 personnel respectively, supported by a 50-strong heavy engineering platoon from Indonesia. In addition, there are 35 military observers and 26 civilian police monitors. The authorized strength of the civilian component, including the local staff, is 203. The international civilian and military personnel are drawn from 50 countries.

5. During the past six months, the military units of UNPREDEP have actively patrolled their respective areas of operation, while the military observers and civilian police monitors have continued their community and border patrols. On average, UNPREDEP military personnel have conducted some 400 patrols per week, including 300 border and community patrols, established 80 temporary observation posts (from 3 to 24 hours), and conducted 15 helicopter patrols. In addition, the civilian police monitors conduct approximately 100 patrols per week.

6. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998), UNPREDEP has undertaken the new task of monitoring and reporting on illicit arms flows and other activities that are prohibited under resolution 1160 (1998). UNPREDEP has developed new techniques to enhance its capacity to ascertain whether arms smuggling is actually taking place in its area of operation. Mobile reaction teams have been established, which, while paying due attention to safety, respond to sighted smuggling activities by moving quickly to continue observation at a closer distance, thus providing more accurate information on whether arms, ammunition or explosives are involved. However, it should be underlined that while UNPREDEP, within it current mandate, can monitor and report, it does not have the authority to interdict and inspect cross-border traffic. Although smuggling incidents have been observed, UNPREDEP has so far not detected any direct evidence of arms smuggling across the borders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with Albania or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

7. The civilian component of UNPREDEP has been effectively monitoring and reporting on developments in the country that could affect its peace and stability. It has continued to implement the good offices mandate vested in my Special Representative by conducting an active dialogue with the authorities and all other major political forces in the country; encouraging cross-party dialogue and a better understanding among the various segments of the population with a view to easing inter-ethnic tensions; and promoting the application of international standards of human rights.

8. In pursuing a comprehensive model of preventive action, UNPREDEP has also been involved in a wide range of programmes related to good governance and the rule of law, strengthening of national capacity and infrastructure, institution-building and human resources development in the governmental and civil sectors. The mission has worked with many groups in the society to encourage them to contribute to the country's development and to serve as agents of conflict prevention and promoters of democracy and human rights. International expertise has been made available to the host country through long-term programmes and activities aimed at enhancing social peace and stability. These programmes have been funded from extrabudgetary resources mobilized by the office of the Special Representative, which have now reached nearly US$ 8 million in cash and kind.

9. UNPREDEP has continued its close cooperation with the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Commission Monitoring Mission in the country. It has also established a working relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Kosovo Verification Coordination Centre and the NATO Extraction Force recently deployed in the host country.

III. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES

10. Several agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are engaged in various forms of assistance to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Seven of them have already established permanent offices in Skopje and regular coordination meetings are convened by my Special Representative. Many others have been encouraged by UNPREDEP to give priority to the host country in their ongoing programmes and links have also been established with new agencies in an effort to strengthen the international presence in the country and to promote greater political, socio-economic and cultural stability. The consultative meeting of the entities of the United Nations system convened by UNPREDEP in Skopje in 1998 (see S/1998/454, para. 9) contributed considerably towards this goal.

International Monetary Fund

11. As indicated in my report of 20 November 1997 (see S/1997/911, para. 9), in April 1997, a total of special drawing rights (SDR) 54.6 million (1 SDR=US$ 1.5) was made available to the host country for the period 1997-1999 by an arrangement under the International Monetary Fund's concessional Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility. To date, SDR 27.3 million have been disbursed. The total fund credit and loans outstanding at the end of June 1998 amounted to SDR 74.4 million. The Fund has provided the host country with technical assistance and training in a number of areas, including public expenditure, tax and customs, monetary accounting, bank supervision, monetary policy and statistics, external sector policies, public finance, macroeconomic analysis and balance of payments. Seminars and courses have also been held on comparative experience of market economies, social safety net policies and reform in administration.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. The main focus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been on human rights promotional activities aimed, in particular, at encouraging initiatives within civil society. The host country was included in the Office's Assisting Communities Together project (ACT), which was established to provide small grants to individuals and organizations for local human rights projects. The project, launched as part of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The implementation of three selected local projects will largely be completed by March 1999. Based on this experience, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights hopes to expand this programme in the future.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

13. In response to the crisis in Kosovo, the host Government granted the status of "humanitarian assisted persons" to people from that region who entered the country legally and now desire to stay longer. Following a request from the Government to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist the most vulnerable groups of persons coming from Kosovo, an inter-agency assistance programme was created involving both the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNHCR. To date, the national Red Cross Society has registered approximately 1,000 persons and delivered assistance to some 700 of them. In 1999, UNHCR will continue its assistance to the 1,200 Bosnian refugees still in the country. It will reinforce its efforts in capacity-building activities, especially in the asylum and refugee determination systems, and will expand its programme for persons coming from Kosovo who are eligible to receive assistance from UNHCR.

United Nations Children's Fund

14. The programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to be implemented primarily through the three Ministries of Health, Education and Labour and Social Policy, as well as, increasingly, through local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Other partners include multilateral and bilateral organizations and international agencies working in the country. An annual programme review conducted by UNICEF and its implementing partners in December 1998 examined the performance and endorsed the overall programme direction. There has been encouraging progress in the field of education and early-childhood development. The interactive learning project, which aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the primary level, expanded its coverage to 18 per cent of the schools in the country. An innovative early-childhood development project has shown promising early results. In the field of health, the host country has achieved the virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorder and the eradication of poliomyelitis is on track for official certification by the year 2000. Immunization coverage has been sustained at over 90 per cent for all antigens. Special attention is being paid to polio immunization owing to the risks of outbreak posed by refugees arriving from Kosovo, where immunization levels are low. The promotion of alternatives to institutional care gained momentum with the enactment of legislation on fostering. This was accompanied by training and social mobilization campaigns to give substance to the new legal provisions. In addition, emergency preparedness measures focusing on enhancement of health and education services have been initiated in the event of a refugee influx from Kosovo.

United Nations Development Programme

15. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) liaison office, established in Skopje in June 1998, will manage the programmes formulated within the structure of its first country cooperation framework (CCF) for 1998-2001. These programmes, which started in June 1998, will focus on four major approved thematic areas - environment, private sector development, education and social transfers. In the field of environment, UNDP supports the implementation of the national environment action plan through capacity-building in environmental

management by the Government, civil society organizations and local authorities. The plan includes provision for technical training in environmental policy design, investments and valuation of natural resources, as well as industry, water management and energy monitoring and inspection. Technical support to sectoral ministries will be provided in the elaboration of environmental impact related policies and cross-sectoral strategies. Assistance to municipalities will focus on the preparation and implementation of a local environment action plan and assistance to civil society organizations on environmental advocacy and public awareness campaigns. UNDP also supports the Government's efforts in preparing a plan for the establishment of a national commission for sustainable development to promote national sustainable development according to the principles agreed upon in Rio de Janeiro for Agenda 21. Other ongoing programmes by UNDP include support to the consolidation of national aid coordination and foreign debt management, capacity-building in social development and strengthening of the national machinery for women's advancement in the country.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

16. In August 1998, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention opened a project office in Skopje staffed by a national programme officer. This has facilitated the launching and implementation of a multisectoral technical cooperation project in drug control. Several activities were organized during the period from August to December 1998. The drug detection and investigative capacities of police and customs administration were strengthened through the provision of specialized equipment. Technical assistance and equipment for drug identification was also supplied to the Laboratory for Criminal Investigation of the Ministry of the Interior and to the Forensic Medicine Institute of the Ministry of Health. Forensic experts also participated in training courses and study tours abroad. A workshop for NGOs working in drug prevention, as well as lectures for students, were held in Skopje. Planned activities include support to the Ministry of Education in designing a drug abuse prevention curriculum for school children and an advanced training course on drug law enforcement techniques for the Ministry of the Interior. A new subregional joint United Nations International Drug Control Programme-European Union PHARE drug law enforcement programme will be launched shortly and the country will benefit from activities aimed at the coordination of land border controls with Bulgaria, the strengthening of controls at Skopje airport and the development of computerized drug intelligence analysis systems in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

17. In May and June 1998, the Centre for International Crime Prevention, in cooperation with the Government and with the assistance of UNPREDEP, organized three training courses on methods of modern police management with implications for civil liberties and human rights. Follow-up action has focused on the preparation of teaching materials and the translation of the United Nations standards on criminal justice in the national language for law enforcement officials, examining current penal and banking legislation and creating an effective implementing mechanism, strengthening analytical and operational capabilities, improving inter-ministerial cooperation and enhancing international mutual assistance. A law review committee, established with experts from three ministries, has drafted new legislation currently under

review by the Government. Plans are also under way for creating a cadre of financial police to combat economic and financial crime.

World Bank

18. To date, the World Bank has supported the reform programme in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with 15 operations totalling over US$ 400 million. Most recently, the Bank approved a US$ 29 million social sector adjustment credit, a US$ 1.17 million pension reform technical assistance credit and a DM 61.5 million power system improvement project. The Bank has adopted the new country assistance strategy for 1999-2001, which outlines a programme of support for three priority areas: promoting private sector growth and job creation; enhancing the efficiency of the State and alleviating poverty; and developing human capital. In the area of continued macroeconomic stability and progress in reform, the World Bank's lending programme will total US$ 200 million in this three-year period. In addition, the Bank has prepared a number of analytical documents, including a country economic memorandum entitled "Enhancing Growth", a foreign investment advisory service report and a poverty assessment report. In January 1999, a World Bank team held a joint workshop with the Government to discuss priorities for reform and development. During the workshop, the newly elected Government broadly endorsed the priority areas outlined in the Bank's country assistance strategy. In February 1999, approval is expected for a second transport sector project, valued at US$ 32 million, which will be aimed at continuing road rehabilitation along the east-west corridor and restructuring the railways. A dialogue has also begun on the preparation of a second financial and enterprise sector adjustment loan aimed at eliminating constraints to private sector investment and growth.

World Health Organization

19. The activities of the World Health Organization (WHO) during the last six months were mainly focused on the priorities set out in the collaborative agreement with the Ministry of Health. Those were aimed at the strengthening of the pharmaceutical sector, the eradication of poliomyelitis in the country, the enhancement of the professional capacity of doctors working on reproductive health issues, the prevention and case management of tuberculosis, the finalizing of the national environmental and health action plan and at further support to the development of the national health policy. The new strategy, "Health 21 - Health for all for the twenty-first century", adopted during the fifty-first World Health Assembly in May 1998, will also have strong impact on implementing the priorities of the EUROHEALTH programme.

IV. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

20. Since my last report dated 14 July 1998 (S/1998/644), the situation in Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) has been a matter of continued grave concern to the international community. Issues relating to the situation in the region were addressed in my report to the Council of 30 January 1999 (S/1999/99), prepared pursuant to resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998).

21. The bilateral relations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with some of its neighbours have strengthened during the reporting period. Relations with Albania have improved significantly following the recent parliamentary elections in the host country and the inclusion, at the invitation of the winning coalition, of a coalition of the ethnic Albanian Party for Democratic Prosperity of Albanians and the National Democratic Party (PDPA/NDP) in the new Government. High-level bilateral visits and agreements on mutual cooperation between the two countries, as well as efforts by the new Government to improve inter-ethnic relations, have had a further positive impact on bilateral relations.

22. The steady increase in trade and collaborative ventures with Greece, as well as official visits by that country's leadership, reflect improved bilateral relations between the two neighbours despite the still unresolved name-related dispute. Relations with Bulgaria are also strengthening, with both countries expressing a renewed determination to overcome the language dispute while simultaneously increasing economic and other forms of cooperation.

23. Relations between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been strained owing to the host country's decision to authorize the deployment of the NATO Extraction Force on its territory. This decision prompted a strong protest by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There has also been no progress on the issue of demarcation of the border between the two countries and the Joint Border Commission, after a hiatus of six months, has yet to resume its deliberations.

24. The most significant positive development on the domestic political scene during the reporting period was the holding of the third parliamentary elections in October and November 1998. The elections, which were held in a peaceful atmosphere, resulted in a change of Government. The new Government represents a coalition of three parties, including the ethnic Albanian coalition (PDPA/NDP). The elections were held in accordance with the new electoral laws, which enjoyed wide political consensus when adopted by the Parliament. They were monitored by international observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and international NGOs, all of whom assessed the overall electoral process to be well conducted and in accordance with OSCE and Council of Europe standards.

25. The new Prime Minister, Ljubco Georgievski, in his policy statement before assuming office, underlined that the fostering and development of inter-ethnic relations will be one of the fundamental tenets of his Government. The formation of a new inclusive Government has been a demonstration of that commitment and has eased inter-ethnic relations in the country.

26. In keeping with this declared policy of seeking inter-ethnic harmony, the first legislative act of the newly constituted Parliament was to adopt the law on amnesty to pave the way for the release of the ethnic Albanian mayors and chairmen of the municipal councils of Gostivar and Tetovo. The trial and heavy sentencing, in particular of the then mayor of Gostivar, Rufi Osmani, in September 1997, had heightened inter-ethnic tensions in the country (see S/1997/911, para. 20). Despite President Gligorov's initial veto of the promulgation of the law, owing to his objections to some aspects of it, the

Parliament adopted it at its second reading on 4 February 1999. The subsequent immediate release of the imprisoned ethnic Albanian local government officials is expected to contribute further to the easing of inter-ethnic tension in the country.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

27. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/20 of 2 November 1998, appropriated an amount of $29 million (gross) for the maintenance of UNPREDEP for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, in addition to the amount of $21,053,745 (gross) already appropriated for this period under the provisions of its resolution 52/245 of 26 June 1998. The assessment of $16,684,582 (gross) for the period from 1 March to 30 June 1999 at a monthly rate of $4,171,145 (gross) is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force.

28. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNPREDEP beyond 28 February 1999, as I recommend in paragraph 34 below, the cost of maintaining the Force until 30 June 1999 would be limited to the above-mentioned resources.

29. As at 31 January 1999, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNPREDEP special account amounted to $20.3 million. The total of outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1.7 billion.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

30. Peace and stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to depend largely on developments in other parts of the region, in particular in Kosovo. In my report to the Council of 30 January 1999 (S/1999/99), I expressed my increasing concern that the spread of violence and the nature of the attacks in Kosovo could lead to a situation of all-out civil war in the province, which might have unpredictable repercussions for the entire region. It is a matter of satisfaction that, until now, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not been adversely affected by the conflict in Kosovo. However, the potential serious repercussions that continued violence in Kosovo could have upon the external and internal security of the country cannot be ignored given the large proportion of ethnic Albanians in the population of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

31. As stated in my report to the Council of 1 June 1998 (S/1998/454, para. 21), the presence of UNPREDEP has so far contributed successfully to preventing the spillover of conflicts elsewhere in the region to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. By contributing significantly to promoting dialogue among the various political forces and ethnic communities in the country, UNPREDEP continues to have a stabilizing effect. The confidence inspired by its presence has been useful in defusing tensions that could have arisen as a result of the continued crisis in Kosovo.

32. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in a letter addressed to me on 29 January 1999 (S/1999/108), presented his Government's arguments for an extension of the mandate of UNPREDEP for an additional six months, with its existing composition and structure. In his letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs pointed, in particular, to his Government's concern over the danger of a spillover of the conflict in Kosovo into neighbouring countries, the increase in tensions on the Albanian-Yugoslav border, the still unstable situation in Albania, which has burdened his Government's efforts to prevent arms trafficking to Kosovo, and the lack of progress in the demarcation of the country's border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

33. As the present report is being written, the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia is actively engaged in seeking a political solution to the Kosovo crisis. At the same time, discussions are continuing within the framework of NATO concerning the possible deployment of an international military presence in the region. The outcome of such deliberations and the medium- to long-term impact they will have on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and on UNPREDEP itself, cannot be foreseen at this time.

34. Against the backdrop of developments in and relating to the region, and taking into account, in particular, the arguments adduced by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Security Council may wish to consider extending the presence of UNPREDEP, with its existing mandate and composition, for a further period of six months until 31 August 1999, on the understanding that it would review its decision should the discussions referred to in paragraph 33 above result in developments which would affect UNPREDEP's role and responsibilities.

35. Finally, I should like to thank my Special Representative, Fernando Valenzuela Marzo, and his predecessor, Henryk J. Sokalski, as well as the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ove Strømberg, and all the military and civilian personnel under their command for their dedication and perseverance in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex

Composition and strength of the military and civilian police elements of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force - February 1999*

Country	Contingent strength	Military observers	Civilian police
Argentina	-	1	-
Bangladesh	-	2	-
Belgium	-	1	-
Brazil	-	2	-
Canada	-	1	-
Czech Republic	-	1	-
Denmark	87	1	-
Egypt	-	1	-
Finland	199	1	6
Ghana	-	1	-
Indonesia	51	2	-
Ireland	-	2	-
Jordan	-	1	2
Kenya	-	2	-
Nepal	-	1	-
New Zealand	-	1	-
Nigeria	-	1	4
Norway	152	2	-
Pakistan	-	2	-
Poland	-	2	-
Portugal	-	1	-
Russian Federation	-	3	2
Sweden	198	1	-
Switzerland	-	1	4
Turkey	-	-	4
Ukraine	-	1	4
United States of America	362	-	-
Total	1 049	35	26

* The number of military personnel and civilian police monitors may vary owing to rotations.

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17 February 1999

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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by me on 10 February 1999, before the adoption of Security Council draft resolution S/1999/133 on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-04164 (E) 180299

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Annex

Statement issued by the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations at the formal meeting of the Security Council on 10 February 1999

It has now been almost nine months since the Eritrean regime committed an act of aggression against Ethiopia and occupied Ethiopia's territory by force.

While fully recognizing its right, to which any sovereign country is entitled, to defend itself, Ethiopia nevertheless chose to seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Accordingly, as the Security Council knows full well, Ethiopia accepted peace proposals aimed at ending the dispute peacefully.

In particular, the Security Council is fully cognizant of Ethiopia's acceptance of the Framework Agreement as approved by the Central Organ Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution on 17 December 1998 (S/1998/1223, annex), for which the Council, in its resolution 1226 (1999) of 29 January 1999 expressed full support, calling for its full implementation without delay.

It is common knowledge, and the Security Council knows this very well, that Eritrea has rejected virtually all peace proposals, and continues to create confusion by pretending that it remains engaged with the OAU process.

The facts speak for themselves. During the past nine months, there has never been a single occasion when the Eritrean regime was engaged positively and constructively in resolving peacefully the crisis between Eritrea and Ethiopia. On the contrary, it left no stone unturned to frustrate all peace endeavours, at all levels, inter alia, through its well-known ploys and tactics including the blackmailing of mediators.

During the past nine months, the Eritrean regime not only has consistently sabotaged and rejected all peace proposals, but also has carried out provocative military actions, in order to create an atmosphere of general crisis and to divert the attention of the international community from addressing the core issue, namely, Eritrean withdrawal from Ethiopian territory.

It is exactly for this reason that the Eritrean regime launched a large-scale military action, including the aerial bombing of the town of Adigrat, on 4, 5 and 6 February while the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General was in the region to persuade Eritrea to accept the OAU Framework Agreement. In this regard, I wish to draw the Security Council's attention to my letters of 4 and 5 February 1999, and their annexes (S/1999/115 and S/1999/119), in which I informed the President of the Council of these latest Eritrean military actions against Ethiopian military positions and civilian targets.

In light of these developments, under the circumstances and in view of Eritrea's continued acts of provocation, the Ethiopian Government had no option but to exercise its legitimate right of self-defence, as clearly stipulated in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Let me now comment briefly on the draft resolution before the Security Council.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the Security Council reaffirms its resolution 1226 (1999), in which it strongly urged Eritrea to accept the OAU Framework Agreement without delay.

I also welcome the fact that the Security Council has, once again, stressed that the OAU Framework Agreement remains a viable and sound solution for the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

However, we should also put on record our reservation in the strongest possible terms in respect of paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution S/1999/133.

While it is a well-known fact that Ethiopia is a victim of Eritrean aggression and that its territory has been illegally occupied by the use of force for over eight months now, and that, as a result, it is engaged in the exercise of the legitimate right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, it is patently contrary to the elementary principle and sense of justice to place the aggressor and the victim of aggression on the same footing and call for the cessation of arms sales to both countries.

In this connection, we should recall how Ethiopia was treated by the League of Nations back in 1936 when that organization imposed an arms embargo on both Fascist Italy and Ethiopia, knowing full well that Fascist Italy, the aggressor, was self-sufficient in respect of arms, while Ethiopia, a poor country, was trying to defend its sovereignty against a, at the time, major European power. History is repeating itself. It is well known that since Ethiopia does not, and would not, have any relations with rogue States, it has no arms supplies. The call for a cessation of arms sales to both Ethiopia and Eritrea when the latter's source of arms remains intact, being States whose commitment to international law is highly questionable at best, is in effect directed solely against law-abiding Ethiopia, a country without any source of arms supplies whatsoever.

Moreover, it is clear that Eritrea is a country with a long coastline, while Ethiopia is a landlocked country. It does not require any stretch of the imagination to see which country can continue to import arms and ammunition despite any call for cessation of arms sales to both countries. Again, paragraph 7 of the resolution is in the final analysis targeted against Ethiopia.

Let me conclude by stating that our infinite patience and readiness to cooperate with parties working for a peaceful resolution of the dispute, in spite of our being a victim of aggression, should not be mistaken for a slackening in our resolve to defend our sovereignty.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/163
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 17 February 1999, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, K. S. Walubita, issued a press statement on the problems between Angola and Zambia. I request that this press statement, which I attach, be circulated as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(Signed) Peter L. KASANDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-04322 (E) 180299

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Annex

Press statement issued on 17 February 1999 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia

On 27 January 1999, I issued a Press Release stating that on 14 January 1999 I had received a letter from the former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Angola, Honourable Venancio de Moura, informing me that his Government had "credible information that confirms a large involvement of the Zambian authorities in the logistic and military support sent to Dr. Jonas Savimbi inside Angola, to perpetuate war and the suffering of the Angolan people".

Upon receipt of this letter, the Zambian Government in accordance with normal diplomatic practice, requested the Angolan Government to provide the alleged credible information so that it could be thoroughly investigated. This information was officially received on 4 February 1999 in the form of a Memorandum dated 15 January 1999 and is hereby released for general information. Since then, the Angolan Government has released various versions of the Memorandum through its Missions abroad.

When the first round of allegations were made, a Task Force under the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee carried out verification missions during the course of 1997. In addition to this, Joint Angola/Zambia Inspection Team verification missions were conducted in March 1998 to areas allegedly being used to transport arms to UNITA. In both cases, there was no evidence of the alleged activities found.

The Government of Zambia also eagerly welcomed the initiative by the United Nations to send a verification mission in April 1998 led by Ambassador Njuguna Mahugu, of Kenya, who was then Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Committee on Sanctions on UNITA.

In May 1998, the Organization of African Unity also sent a verification mission led by Ambassador Daniel Antonio, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity cleared Zambia of these allegations.

On a number of occasions and at different fora, the Zambian Government and the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament have unreservedly condemned UNITA for undermining the peace process under the Lusaka Protocol.

At the multilateral level, in September 1998, the Zambian Government was party to a decision taken at the SADC Heads of State Summit in Mauritius, to declare Dr. Jonas Savimbi a war criminal.

In addition to this, at the OAU Central Organ Summit held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 17 December 1998 the Zambian Government was party against the resumption of hostilities by UNITA and appealed for compliance in fulfilling the Lusaka Protocol.

The Government of Zambia would like to state that it has complied with the United Nations Security Council resolutions against UNITA and has communicated this information to the United Nations.

It is also a matter of record that Zambia has played a pivotal role in the liberation of Southern Africa, including that of Angola. It is, therefore, inconceivable that Zambia would be associated with any activities which would be detrimental to the peace and stability of Angola and the subregion as a whole.

I would like to remind my fellow Zambians and the international community that the war in Angola had been going on long before the MMD came into power in November 1991. The MMD Government, however, invested 14 months of its energy and resources to facilitate the peace process that culminated into the signing of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994.

In fact, our position throughout the negotiation of the Lusaka Protocol was to encourage both parties to reach a political settlement. Zambia also contributed troops and civilians to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Angola. Some of these Zambians have made the ultimate sacrifice by paying with their own blood and lives for peace in Angola.

The Zambian Government finds it a strange coincidence that the allegations are intensifying when our mediation efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have reached an advanced stage.

The Government of Zambia has, meanwhile, sent letters of complaint to the Chairman of the Southern African Development Community, His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela, the Chairman of the SADC organ on Politics, Defence and Security, His Excellency Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, formally inviting them to send missions to Zambia to establish the veracity of these allegations.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to promoting good-neighbourliness with Angola and our desire to see Angola attain durable peace so that the country and the subregion can develop in a stable political environment.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/163/Corr.1
22 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Corrigendum

Document S/1999/163 is hereby withdrawn.

99-04689 (E) 220299

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/832
S/1999/164
17 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 9 February 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region of Nicosia and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 11 February 1999.

On that day, at 10.50 hours, two RF-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region from a northerly direction violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. The two aircraft flew over the areas of Kormakitis, Karpasia and Famagusta before exiting the Nicosia flight information region at 11.40 hours and re-entering the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, the systematic Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest this new provocative act by Turkey which is a further reminder of Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like to underline, once again, that the present violation occurred following the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus

and to refrain from any action that might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It is yet another example of Turkey's unwillingness to comply with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/165
17 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It is important that all members of the Security Council be allowed to participate fully in the preparation of the resolutions of the Council and statements by the President of the Council. Contributions by members of groups of friends and other similar arrangements, which, inter alia, aim at helping to promote the settlement of particular crisis situations, are welcome. The drafting of resolutions and statements by the President of the Council should be carried out in a manner that will allow adequate participation of all members of the Council. While the need is recognized for the Council, in many instances, to adopt its decisions expeditiously, sufficient time should be allowed for consultations of all members of the Council and for their own consideration of the drafts, prior to action by the Council on specific items.

99-04185 (E) 170299

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/166
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a message dated 11 February 1999 from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, addressed to the Secretary-General, and request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-04480 (E) 190299

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Annex

Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the President of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of acknowledging receipt of the letter you sent me by way of Issa Diallo, your Special Representative in Angola.

The concerns to which you referred in the letter warrant the special attention of the Angolan Government. The Government has never had reason to oppose the presence of United Nations agencies in Angola, where they have undertaken regular activities without any constraint, except in areas that still remain out of their control. The Government of Angola will continue to deal with representatives of those agencies on issues related to humanitarian assistance, human rights and other matters of interest to the people.

Objectively, the Government of Angola considers that conditions for maintaining in Angola the presence of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) have ceased to exist, regardless of the format. This is because Jonas Savimbi, who had been calling into question the Lusaka Protocol since the end of the first quarter of 1998 with small-scale military actions and other acts that impeded its normal implementation, withdrew from the process to restart and spread the war on a large scale throughout the country beginning in December 1998.

The Angolan Government will maintain a line of constructive dialogue with those that are interested in peace. For this reason, it will continue discussions with the present leaders of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), elected at the recent party congress approximately 20 days ago. At that time, Jonas Savimbi was removed from the leadership of the organization. This removal means that Jonas Savimbi no longer represents UNITA.

This is a reality that will have to be well understood by the international community and especially by the United Nations, given that the explicit and formal acceptance by the Security Council of the present UNITA leadership as the interlocutor for national reconciliation will represent an inestimable contribution to the complete and definitive isolation of Savimbi on the international scene.

It is also certain that this measure will become effective and more efficient as a contribution to peace if the Security Council, in view of the behaviour displayed by Mr. Savimbi from the Bicesse Accords of 1991 through the Lusaka Protocol to the present date, does not hesitate to consider him a war criminal subject to a warrant of international arrest.

This decision, if complemented by the approval of reinforcing measures and improved sanctions control mechanisms against Mr. Savimbi, will restore to the Security Council, at least as concerns Angola, the fullness of authority trampled upon by Mr. Savimbi and some of his few friends in Africa and others scattered around the rest of the world.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that we are not against the idea of indicating a representative of yours who, from New York, can maintain contact with the Government of Angola in monitoring the evolution of the situation in our country.

Hopefully you will take into consideration the ideas contained in this letter.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/167
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL*

Upon authorization, I send this letter in order to notify you of our position on the "United Nations Command" in south Korea.

Today, the Korean peninsula still remains in a state of armistice, not durable peace. The United States has already completed a series of plans to provoke the Second Korean War, such as "Operation Plan 5027" aimed at destroying our Republic by force. Consequently, a grave situation is now in the making, in which another war could break out on the Korean peninsula at any moment.

Moreover, some time ago, the United States committed the most dangerous act of air strikes against Iraq without a new Security Council resolution, thus disregarding Security Council members. All these events of recent days have made us ponder, once again, over the United States' ulterior intention of not dissolving the "United Nations Command" in south Korea.

Security Council resolution 84 (1950) of 7 July 1950, which the United states refers to as the legal basis for establishing and maintaining the "United Nations Command", constitutes a total violation of Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations since it was "adopted" when the Soviet Union, one of the permanent members at that time, did not participate in its deliberations and vote.

In this regard, in February 1965 the then President of France stated that Council resolution 84 (1950) deviated from the principles of the Charter, and the former Secretary-General also made clear in his letter of 24 July 1994 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that the aforesaid resolution was not a decision to establish a "United Nations Command".

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* The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

In actuality, the "United Nations Command" in south Korea is not an organ under the United Nations system or a subsidiary organ of the Security Council. Nor is it funded by the United Nations. Furthermore, it is operating only under the control and instruction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States Armed Forces, not those of any organ, including the Security Council, within the United Nations system.

Nevertheless, the United States is still keeping the "United Nations Command" in south Korea, while turning its face away from our proposal to replace the armistice agreement with a Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States peace agreement. Its intention of doing so is nothing more than to use the name of the United Nations for waging a pre-emptive military strike against our country in a so-called "case of emergency".

The Security Council, whose primary responsibility is to prevent war and maintain international peace and security, certainly should not allow the United States to use the United Nations name for provoking the Second Korean War.

The Russian Federation became a permanent member by succeeding the former Soviet Union, and in 1972 the People's Republic of China took the status of a permanent member. As such, certain changes have taken place in the composition of the Security Council in the past half a century.

Therefore, the Security Council, commensurate with these changes, should pay due attention to correcting its wrongdoing made in dealing with the issue of Korea during the Cold War era and take a measure to dissolve the "United Nations Command" in south Korea, a product of arbitrariness and high-handedness of the United States.

I also take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Security Council to the Secretary-General's letter of 21 December 1998 in response to the letter of 1 July 1998 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in which the former indicated that the withdrawal of the United Nations flag and name from United States troops in south Korea falls under the mandate of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/168
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council today considered and approved the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola contained in document S/1999/147 of 12 February 1999. The Council endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

99-04292 (E) 180299

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/169
18 February 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismaiel, concerning the Conference of the so-called Sudanese armed opposition which Uganda has welcomed in order to forcibly overthrow the legitimate Government in the Sudan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

99-04334 (E) 180299 180299

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Annex

Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you and, through you, to inform the members of the Security Council that the Ugandan regime continues to interfere openly in the internal affairs of the Sudan by hosting the Conference of the so-called Sudanese armed opposition which was held from 8 to 12 February 1999 in Kampala. In the presence of the Minister of the local government, Colonel Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister in charge of security, Mr. Muruli Mukasa, read a message from the Minister in charge of matters relating to the presidency, Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, in which the latter emphasized the need to continue the armed struggle in order to overthrow the legitimate Government of the Sudan.

In the final declaration published at the close of the Conference, the participants reaffirmed the need to continue the struggle and the policy of violence in order to overthrow the legitimate Government of the Sudan and that they were going to use additional means to destabilize the Sudan and to sow disorder there.

The fact that that Conference, which brought together armed terrorist groups, was held in Kampala, the material and logistics support which the Ugandan Government is giving to these groups by allowing them to meet in Uganda and the fact that Ugandan leaders spoke at the Conference openly inciting the participants to resort to violence against the Sudanese Government shows to what extent the Ugandan authorities want to harm the Sudan. These acts cast an ominous shadow on the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Sudan and peace and security in the region and on the African continent which has suffered considerably from wars and struggles, and they constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all international customs and instruments.

The Sudan has kept the Security Council regularly informed of the grave practices which Uganda was engaging in and of the Ugandan leaders' expansionist aims. This information is confirmed by the facts and the issues before the Council and by the immoral behaviour of Uganda which has sought to destabilize the Great Lakes region. Moreover, Uganda has publicly confessed to having invaded a sovereign African country, citing pretexts which have no foundation and which are incompatible with international customs and instruments.

The interference by the Ugandan regime in the internal affairs of the Sudan and of neighbouring African countries has become a grave phenomenon to which the Security Council must put an end in order to preserve the stability of the Sudan but also to preserve peace and stability throughout the region. In this connection, we wish to recall that, at informal consultations held on 11 February, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and members of the Council issued a warning against the military adventurism of certain African countries which were aggravating the armed conflicts in the continent. Uganda is a perfect example of such countries which embark in vain on this type of

adventurism which sows destruction on the continent and aggravates the suffering of the African people whose priority should be to put their energies and their capacities to work for development.

While informing you of the acts of aggression committed by the Ugandan regime and the hostile intentions which it harbours towards the Sudan, I express the hope that the Security Council will carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations, namely, to preserve security and stability in the region and international peace and security by compelling the Ugandan regime to renounce its irresponsible actions.

(Signed) Mustafa Osman ISMAIEL
Minister for Foreign Affairs

UNITED
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Economic and Social Council
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1999/7
S/1999/170
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Resumed organizational session
for 1999
New York, 6 and 7 May 1999
Agenda item 1
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the Security Council

I refer to recent meetings I had with you and with the former President of the Security Council, Ambassador Celso Amorim, on implementation of Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, according to which "the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist the Security Council upon its request".

The reference to Article 65 in the presidential statement of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) at the end of the open meeting on "Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building" was acknowledged by the Economic and Social Council at the beginning of its deliberations in 1999. I referred to it in my opening statement on 20 January 1999 and several delegations mentioned it during the organizational session. The Secretary-General also referred to this issue in addressing the Economic and Social Council on 3 February 1999.

In the discussions held so far on possible areas for concrete implementation of Article 65, two subjects have been raised.

The first one refers to Security Council resolution 1170 (1998) of 28 May 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as to the presidential statement of 24 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/29) issued at the end of a ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa. In both deliberations the need was stressed for the United Nations system, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to consider appropriate action in response to the comprehensive recommendations set out by the Secretary-General in his report. I wish to underline that the Economic and Social Council will devote

the coordination segment of its substantive session next July in Geneva to the theme "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development". Furthermore, both the high-level segment ("The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women") and the humanitarian segment ("International cooperation and coordinated responses to the humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development") will provide useful elements for the "comprehensive, concerted and determined approach" to the problems of Africa, which is at the core of the approach suggested by the Security Council.

The second theme raised refers to Haiti. In resolution 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998, paragraph 8, the Security Council invites "United Nations bodies and agencies, especially the Economic and Social Council, to contribute to the designing" of "a long-term programme of support for Haiti". I am seeking your advice whether such invitation should be interpreted as a formal request in accordance with the second part of Article 65 of the Charter and, if this is the case, what concrete contribution the Security Council expects from the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/63
S/1999/171
12 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

ENHANCEMENT OF AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING CAPACITY

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 89 of its report of 28 June 1997 (A/52/209), the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations recommended that the United Nations give particular attention to strengthening the institutional capacity of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to organizing training programmes for military personnel of African countries and to mobilizing assistance, in particular logistical and financial support to African peacekeeping capacity and to the activities of OAU in conflict prevention, management and resolution. It requested me to report to the General Assembly on measures taken to this end. In paragraph 111 of its report of 21 May 1998 (A/53/127), the Special Committee reaffirmed these recommendations, and reiterated its interest in receiving a report in this regard.

2. The present report is submitted in response to these requests.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE ENHANCEMENT OF AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING CAPACITY

3. Notwithstanding its inherent difficulties, peacekeeping remains a vital United Nations instrument in assisting African States to resolve conflicts with the help of the international community and to create the conditions for peaceful development. The Organization of African Unity and subregional African organizations are playing an increasingly important role in the management of conflicts on the continent and in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. The experience gained so far clearly shows

that the conduct of meaningful peacekeeping activities is contingent upon a genuine desire on the part of conflicting parties to implement peace agreements and move towards reconciliation. At the same time, while regional and subregional commitment to peaceful solutions is essential, the sustained support of the international community can contribute significantly to the success of Africa's efforts to deal with conflicts on the continent.

4. My predecessor's report of 1 November 1995 on improving preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa (A/50/711-S/1995/911) outlined a broad strategy in this regard. The international community's focus on this issue intensified following the Security Council's meeting on 25 September 1997, at the level of Foreign Ministers, to consider the need for a concerted effort to promote peace and security in Africa. Pursuant to a request made at that meeting, I presented on 13 April 1998 a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), in which I outlined certain broad challenges, together with fundamental principles that should guide efforts to address them.

5. In my report, I noted, in particular, the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and of support for their initiatives. In recent years, there has been a rapid development within Africa of mechanisms to address conflict. These include ongoing efforts by OAU to strengthen its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, whose establishment in 1993 marked an important step towards enhancing African capacity in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping. Other significant developments include the increasing institutionalization of the peacekeeping capacity of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which is working towards the development of a mechanism for prevention, management and resolution of conflict, in order to enhance its ability to contribute to the promotion of stability within the region. There have also been further efforts by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to build a regional peacekeeping capacity. Important regional and subregional peacemaking and peacekeeping initiatives have taken shape in response to the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, among others, and the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

6. Increased cooperation with regional organizations has played a crucial role in the international community's efforts to promote peace in a number of situations in Africa. The reinforcement of the capacity of African countries to participate in peacekeeping missions remains a key priority, whether those operations take place in the framework of a United Nations peacekeeping mission or in one authorized by the Security Council, but conducted by a regional organization or group of States. My report of 13 April 1998 (A/52/871-S/1998/318) reaffirmed the validity of the proposals contained in the report of 1 November 1995 (A/50/711-S/1995/911) concerning practical steps that can be taken with respect to training assistance, joint peacekeeping exercises, greater African participation in the United Nations standby arrangements, partnerships between countries whose contingents require equipment and donors that are able to assist, and closer cooperation between the United Nations and OAU.

7. However, efforts to enhance African capacity should not relieve the international community of its collective obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, which confers on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Measures aimed at helping Africa should not become a justification for reduced engagement in the continent by the international community. Support by non-African States for African peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts, including the provision of financial and other resources, is likely to continue to prove essential in the foreseeable future. In recent conflicts in Africa, we have also seen abundant evidence of how perceptions of political or historical associations may complicate regional efforts to resolve a conflict, so that direct international involvement, including through deployment of a peacekeeping operation, may be indispensable if peace is to be preserved. In this regard, I welcomed the international community's demonstration of its readiness to act through the deployment of two new operations in 1998, in the Central African Republic and in Sierra Leone, both of which supported regional efforts.

8. Following the release of my report (A/52/871-S/1998/318), the General Assembly and the Security Council undertook an in-depth examination of its recommendations.

9. The General Assembly held a wide-ranging debate on my report under agenda item 164. Following that debate, the General Assembly, at its 81st plenary meeting, on 7 December 1998, adopted resolution 53/92, in which, inter alia, it urged all States to assist in strengthening Africa's capacity to participate in all aspects of peacekeeping operations, in particular through increased cooperation between the United Nations and OAU and between the United Nations and subregional organizations. The Assembly also called for the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc working group to monitor implementation of the recommendations of the report.

10. The Security Council also formed a working group, which has considered the recommendations related to peace and security contained in my report. This process has generated important statements of commitment by Member States, as well as valuable reflections upon a number of difficult questions. These included a presidential statement of 16 September 1998 on strengthening African peacekeeping capacity (S/PRST/1998/28); resolution 1196 (1998) of 16 September 1998 on strengthening the effectiveness of arms sanctions regimes imposed by the Security Council; resolution 1197 (1998) of 18 September 1998 on support for regional and subregional initiatives; resolution 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 on the provision of security to refugees and maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements; resolution 1209 (1998) of 19 November 1998 on the problem of illicit arms flows to and in Africa; and a presidential statement of 13 November 1998 on monitoring activities authorized by the Security Council (S/PRST/1998/35).

11. On 24 September 1998, the Security Council held a second ministerial-level meeting to consider the recommendations contained in my report of 13 April 1998. In the presidential statement following the meeting (S/PRST/1998/29), the Security Council, inter alia, urged all States and relevant bodies to provide financial and technical support to strengthen African regional and subregional arrangements for conflict prevention, the maintenance of peace and security and

dispute settlement, and called for an enhanced partnership between the United Nations and African regional and subregional organizations.

III. CURRENT EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING CAPACITY

12. In recent years, we have seen a considerable rise in the number of initiatives undertaken to support the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity. I would like to commend those Member States who have provided key assistance, which can help address African peacekeeping needs.

13. The Secretariat has sought to help in the coordination of these bilateral efforts and has also taken various initiatives of its own to enhance African peacekeeping capabilities. An account of the current status of these efforts is provided below.

A. Cooperation with OAU and subregional organizations

14. The United Nations continues to work closely with regional and subregional organizations in the context of specific peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts in Africa. In my report to the General Assembly (A/53/419) I underlined the importance of closer cooperation between the United Nations and OAU, noting the encouraging measures taken to strengthen their cooperation, particularly in the areas of peace and security.

15. In April 1998, the United Nations established a political liaison office with OAU in Addis Ababa. This office can facilitate the exchange of information and coordination of initiatives and efforts between the two organizations. In addition, the United Nations has been working closely with regional and subregional organizations in their effort to address specific conflicts, including those between Ethiopia and Eritrea and in Guinea-Bissau and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

16. The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with OAU to strengthen the latter's capacity to address conflict. In 1997, the Chief of the Situation Centre of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations travelled to Addis Ababa to assist in strengthening the management of the OAU Situation Room. In May 1998, there was a high-level meeting between the United Nations and OAU secretariats to further develop cooperation and to establish focal points for future discussion. In December 1998, the Chief of the Policy and Analysis Unit of the Department visited Addis Ababa to discuss with OAU representatives ways of assisting the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity.

17. Within the limits of available resources, the Secretariat is prepared to draw upon its pool of current and former staff members, in particular those from African States, in order to facilitate development of the necessary expertise for creation of the OAU Situation Room. Discussions have already begun with OAU in order to arrange a short-term secondment of current or previous personnel of the Department's Situation Centre to the OAU Conflict Management Centre.

18. At the same time, OAU could send some of its staff members to United Nations Headquarters in New York for familiarization with its methods of operation. In this regard, I would like to recall that in the past, funding was made available by Member States to allow African military officers to participate in such exchanges. The development of such programmes could be of significant value to OAU at this juncture and could also help strengthen ongoing links between our two organizations.

19. In the context of its follow-up to my report, the Security Council urged me to consider the possibility of appointing liaison officers to peacekeeping operations of OAU and of subregional organizations in Africa which the Security Council authorizes (see resolution 1197 (1998)). It also expressed readiness to consider the deployment of liaison officers at the headquarters of those organizations (see S/PRST/1998/35). The Secretariat stands ready to deploy such officers, subject to the allocation of the necessary resources.

B. Ongoing capacity-building efforts

1. United Nations standby arrangements

20. The United Nations standby arrangements system has proved to be a useful tool to coordinate needs and resources and can facilitate the establishment of partnerships between Member States that make troops available and countries that are in a position to provide equipment and other support. Through the system, the United Nations addresses issues relating to requirements (troops, equipment, services and so forth) and response time/level of readiness, while helping to build training capacity based on national and regional needs.

21. Over the past 12 months, the Secretariat has focused on enhancing awareness among African States of the functions of the standby arrangements system, and of the potential benefits of participation. A briefing team on standby arrangements visited Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe in June 1998. Over the past year, individual briefings have been given to 18 permanent missions of African Member States; this useful practice will continue, subject to the availability of the necessary resources.

22. Important progress has been made as a result of these efforts. Ten African Member States joined the standby arrangements system in 1998. One African State signed a formal memorandum of understanding with the United Nations during the year. However, as of December 1998, only 22 of the 52 African Member States were participating in the standby arrangements system.

23. Broader African participation within the standby arrangements system is needed in order to strengthen the United Nations capacity to deploy peacekeeping operations within the continent and beyond. It also represents an important means to increase information flow among States, and to promote long-term development of African peacekeeping capacity. In this context, the Secretariat is currently reviewing the possibility of dispatching a standby arrangements team to Africa for further briefings and discussions in the course of the year.

2. Training

24. Recognizing the crucial importance of stronger partnership between African and non-African countries, the Secretariat, in close cooperation with OAU, has convened three major meetings over the past 12 months, devoted to the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity.

25. On 5 December 1997, the Secretariat convened an initial meeting in which 59 Member States and OAU participated in a first attempt to exchange views and to develop a cohesive and coherent framework for new initiatives. On 26 May 1998, the Secretariat convened a follow-up African Peacekeeping Training Strategy Session, which was attended by 64 delegations, including 27 African countries and OAU. Subsequently, in July 1998, the Secretariat circulated for comment to all Member States a three-phased training strategy, with short-, medium- and long-term goals.

26. I believe the two meetings brought several major benefits:

- They highlighted the importance of certain principles - transparency, legitimacy and partnership - for enhancing African peacekeeping capacity;
- They provided a better understanding of the training resources available through the United Nations and bilateral arrangements;
- They also served as a forum for information-sharing and the development of a practical approach for future activities to enhance the training capacity of African States.

27. On 21 January 1999, the Secretariat convened a third meeting at United Nations Headquarters. Delegations from 51 Member States, including 27 African countries, as well as OAU, attended the session. Participants reaffirmed their shared view that Africa's peacekeeping capacity should and could be enhanced through various forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. To this end, they broadly approved the training strategy and the arrangements for information exchange proposed by the United Nations, and endorsed, in principle, the establishment of a working group composed of African and non-African States directly involved in training assistance. While the terms of reference and operational guidelines for such a working group are not yet formally agreed upon, its establishment is considered to be an important practical step forward in enhancing African peacekeeping capacity. In this context, the meeting agreed to explore the possibility of convening one of its future meetings at OAU headquarters. The United Nations intends to vigorously pursue the implementation of the approved tasks for the working group and to further develop the Secretariat's cooperation with OAU, subregional organizations and the donor community in strengthening African peacekeeping capacity.

28. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in close coordination with OAU, has undertaken to serve as the focal point for the collection and dissemination of information on African capacity for peacekeeping. Some information has already been collected as a result, and has allowed the Department to begin the preparation of a database that will be available to all Member States. The

Secretariat welcomes information provided by Member States to date, and encourages communication of further relevant data, all of which will be made widely available through posting on the relevant Web site of the Internet. The provision of scholarships to facilitate the participation of African officers in such programmes could enhance the effectiveness of this effort.

29. The conducting of United Nations training assistance team (UNTAT) and train-the-trainers programmes, as well as support for major peacekeeping exercises, is vital to fulfilling the broad strategy objectives of developing regional peacekeeping capacities and harmonizing training standards among States.

30. Over the past two years, United Nations training activity relating to the enhancement of Africa's peacekeeping capacity has included an UNTAT seminar in Ghana in June 1997, a peacekeeping mission management seminar in Zambia in February 1998, a training assistance visit to Swaziland in March 1998 and a logistics training course in Kenya in June 1998. United Nations training staff also participated in large-scale multinational exercises in Zimbabwe in April 1997 and in Senegal in February 1998. African officers likewise took part in the United Nations train-the-trainer courses in Italy and in an UNTAT seminar in Singapore. The Secretariat is currently planning for seminars that would be held in Nigeria and Zimbabwe during 1999.

31. In view of the increased role of police in peacekeeping operations, recent training and capacity-building activity has included initiatives to strengthen African capacity within in this specific area.

32. In 1997 and 1998, United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) selection assistance teams travelled at the invitation of Egypt, Ghana and Senegal to conduct testing of police officers nominated for deployment to United Nations peacekeeping missions, and to advise police authorities in those countries on United Nations predeployment training curricula. In February 1998, the United Nations Civilian Police Adviser addressed a seminar in Durban, South Africa, which was attended by senior police representatives from the SADC region. The Secretariat participated in a two-week regional course for police officers from SADC countries held in Pretoria, South Africa, in November 1998. It is also planning a course in Africa for police trainers from the 18 African countries currently contributing police to peacekeeping operations, for which it is seeking funding and training assistance from Member States.

3. Logistical and financial support

33. Clearly, a major problem facing efficient deployment of African peacekeeping operations has been the availability of logistical capacity. This was identified as a key issue in the Secretariat's previous report on enhancing African peacekeeping capacity. The importance of this issue was also emphasized in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 16 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/28), in which the Secretary-General was requested to study ways to improve the availability of logistics support for peacekeeping efforts in Africa.

34. Although logistics experts from the United Nations Secretariat have participated in training efforts in Africa, the current capability of the Secretariat is not sufficient to tackle a problem of this scale. Effective measures would need sustained and coordinated partnerships between African and non-African States. I hope that the working group referred to in paragraph 27 above will help to address this pressing issue.

35. Despite the obvious needs, resources to support the Secretariat's efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacity continue to be provided on a relatively small scale and on a case-by-case basis. In recognition of the fact that full implementation of the proposals in my predecessor's report would require additional financial resources, the United Nations Trust Fund for Improving Preparedness for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping in Africa was established to enable interested Member States to assist these efforts.

36. It would be unrealistic to expect the Trust Fund to provide all of the funding necessary for training activities or substitute for bilateral or multilateral programmes. However, it can prove to be a useful tool, and can act effectively as seed money, particularly in combination with additional bilateral and multilateral contributions by Member States. Recently, Trust Fund resources have been used to help support the participation of United Nations experts in the training activities in Ghana and Zambia, the peacekeeping logistics course in Kenya, and the efforts of the Standby Arrangements Unit to increase the participation of African States.

37. To date, the Trust Fund has received only one contribution, from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to which I would like to express my gratitude (details are contained in the annex to the present report). I would strongly encourage Member States to consider contributing to this important Fund.

38. At the same time I would like to draw the attention of donors to the Peace Fund established by OAU as an essential component of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. The United Nations can assist in facilitating contacts between OAU members and potential donors to foster development of African logistical capacity through contributions in kind. Close coordination between OAU and the United Nations Secretariat will be essential in this regard.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

39. At present, 22 African countries are contributing almost 2,500 troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations. I am grateful for their efforts, which show clearly that enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity can help advance the cause of peace, not only in Africa, but around the world.

40. Further progress in the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity would only be possible with the determination of the African States themselves. In this regard, I have attempted to identify in this report some of the major developments in Africa which have brought new possibilities for action.

41. However, support from non-African Member States will continue to play a crucial role in the process. In this context, I welcome the international community's renewed focus on Africa. The intensive discussions that have taken place over the past two years have contributed to a greater political awareness of needs, brought clarification of a number of vital principles, and established a conceptual framework for action to build African peacekeeping capacity.

42. It is now essential that the political will that has been manifested during this period, including the relevant resolutions and statements of the Security Council, be translated into practical action. This will require readiness to share information and expertise; strengthening of ongoing political support, which may include support for deployment, when appropriate, of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa; the strengthening of training for peacekeeping; and the allocation of adequate logistical and financial resources.

43. In the present report, I have described the ongoing efforts within the United Nations in support of this process. While the problems facing Africa are immense, I would like to suggest a number of additional steps through which incremental progress may be made:

- The formation of a working group composed of African and non-African States directly involved in the provision of training assistance;

- The provision of funding, including scholarships, that could allow African military officers, particularly those serving with OAU and subregional arrangements, to participate in short-term exchanges with United Nations peacekeeping staff;

- Consideration of deployment of United Nations liaison officers to regional organizations under appropriate circumstances, as suggested by the Security Council;

- Continued efforts by standby arrangements experts to promote further cooperation by African States within the United Nations standby arrangements system;

- Further use of the United Nations standby arrangements system to help match needs with available resources;

- Communication to the Secretariat by Member States of information on their peacekeeping training programmes;

- Establishment of a special peacekeeping programme for African police officers.

44. As I have indicated, many of these efforts could be supported through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund. I am also drawing the attention of donors to the important role that can be played by the OAU Peace Fund.

45. The United Nations experience in resolving African conflicts attests to the significant role which could be played in Africa through peacekeeping. The recent setbacks that we have experienced in peacekeeping efforts in Africa and

the recent emergence of new threats to stability within the continent should not be seen as grounds for discouragement or disengagement. Rather, they should be viewed as a call for renewed cooperation by all States Members of the United Nations in favour of Africa's search for peace, development and democracy.

46. A combination of determination, perseverance and vision on the part of African leaders and commitment by the international community to support their efforts is vital for peaceful progress within Africa as well as for enhancing Africa's contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations Secretariat stands ready to assist in making this partnership as effective and as fruitful as possible.

ANNEX

United Nations Trust Fund for Improving Preparedness for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping in Africa

The United Nations Trust Fund for Improving Preparedness for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping in Africa was established on 8 July 1996.

	United States dollars*
Revenue	
Contributions - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (July 1996)	250 745
Interest	15 816
Subtotal	266 561
Expenditure	
Ghana UNTAT seminar	50 676
Zambia UNTAT seminar	16 823
Kenya logistics course	28 214
Standby team visit to southern Africa	19 743
Subtotal	115 456
Estimated available	151 105

* All figures remain tentative, since not all obligations have been liquidated at the present time.

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S/1999/172
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 40
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Acting on instructions from my Government, and further to my earlier letters concerning the aggression and the practices engaged in by the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and the occupied areas, I wish to inform you that Israel has expanded the area it occupies in southern Lebanon to include the village of Arnoun.

On 17 January 1999 in the evening, a joint force composed of Israeli soldiers and agents of the "South Lebanon Army" equipped with trucks, cranes and military vehicles surrounded Arnoun with barbed wire and set up a barrier at the entrance to the village. The inhabitants of Arnoun were informed that their village was surrounded, that it was henceforth part of the so-called "security belt" and that Arnoun Lake was now the border separating the village from the liberated areas.

This new Israeli aggression, whereby the occupied area was expanded, comes at a time when the Israeli leaders, within the context of their election campaign, are constantly talking about a withdrawal from Lebanon and an end of the occupation of the Lebanese territories in order to win votes.

The Lebanese Government wishes to inform the Secretary-General and members of the Security Council of this grave development, and urges them to act promptly to restore the status quo ante. It also draws attention to the need to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) whereby the Council called for Israel's unconditional withdrawal to internationally recognized boundaries.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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25 February 1999
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 40
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 18 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Second paragraph, first line

For 17 January 1999 read 17 February 1999

99-05155 (E) 260299

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1999/173
19 February 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the final communiqué (see annex I) of a meeting held in Lomé on 17 February 1999 in relation to the implementation of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau. This meeting was attended by President Gnassingbe Eyadéma, the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); President João Bernardo Vieira; and General Ansumane Mane.

Also annexed hereto is the text of the ceasefire agreement (see annex II) signed on 3 February 1999 by the parties to the conflict.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

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Annex I

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING HELD IN LOMÉ ON 17 FEBRUARY 1999 CONCERNING THE PEACE PROCESS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The participants expressed their satisfaction at the restoration of calm, which will enable the peace process to be consolidated through, inter alia:

- The investiture of the Government of National Unity set up in accordance with the protocol additional to the Abuja Agreement, signed in Lomé on 15 December 1998;

- The acceleration of the process of withdrawing foreign troops;

- The dispatch and deployment of all the troops promised by countries that contribute troops to the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG);

- The reopening of the airport and port of Bissau to international traffic.

In this connection, President Eyadéma reaffirmed the need to continue to make sustained efforts to pursue and complete the peace process.

He welcomed the parties' determination to arrive at a positive, comprehensive and final settlement of the crisis, and urged them to respect scrupulously the commitments deriving from the various agreements concluded.

With respect to the situation on the ground, and with reference to the Abuja Agreement and the ceasefire agreement of 3 February 1999, the participants in the meeting reiterated the need for the parties to the conflict to begin the disarmament and encampment of troops with a view to the reorganization and unification of the armed forces.

General João Bernardo Vieira and General Ansumane Mane renewed their commitment to pursuing that goal.

On the question of the international community's contribution to the peace process in Guinea-Bissau, the President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of ECOWAS, as well as the parties to the conflict, recalled that this contribution consists chiefly of the following:

- Support for the process of national reconciliation;

- Logistical support for ECOMOG;

- Humanitarian assistance;

- Support for the electoral process; and

- Support for national reconstruction.

They welcomed the assistance already provided by some countries in connection with the deployment of the ECOMOG force, and reiterated their call for the continuation of such assistance.

With respect to humanitarian issues, the participants in the meeting highly appreciated the parties' willingness to facilitate the distribution of aid, and invited humanitarian assistance agencies to step up their efforts to alleviate the population's suffering.

The participants also invited the international community to support the electoral process provided for in the Abuja Agreement by cooperating in the organization of general and presidential elections.

In this connection, the parties to the conflict agreed to make every effort to achieve this major objective as speedily as possible.

At the end of the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual understanding, General João Bernardo Vieira and General Ansumane Mane firmly pledged never again to take up arms.

They pledged, in a spirit of national reconciliation, to work in close collaboration in order to ensure the consolidation of peace.

They sincerely congratulated His Excellency Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of ECOWAS, for his unwavering commitment to peace and security in the subregion in general and in Guinea-Bissau in particular. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the President, the Government and the people of Togo for having extended a warm, fraternal and genuinely African welcome to them and to their delegations.

Done at Lomé on 17 February 1999

For the self-proclaimed military junta:

(Signed) Ansumane MANE
Supreme Commander of the self-proclaimed military junta

For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

(Signed) João Bernardo VIEIRA
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

For the Togolese Republic:

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Gnassingbe EYADÉMA
President of the Togolese Republic,
Current Chairman of ECOWAS

Appendix

List of participants

Presidential delegation

1. Mr. João Gomes CARDOSO
   Minister of Transport and Social Capital

2. Lt.-Col. Afonso Tê LETNAM
   Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces

Delegation of the military junta

1. Mr. Francisco BENANTE
   Minister of Defence

2. Lt.-Col. Mohamed Lamine SANHA

Togolese delegation

1. H.E. Mr. Kwassi KLUTSE
   Prime Minister

2. Mr. Barry Moussa BARQUE
   Minister of State for Finance and Privatizations

3. H.E. Mr. Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH
   Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

4. General Assani TIDJANI
   Minister of Defence

5. General Séyi MEMENE
   Minister of the Interior and of Security

6. Mr. Gbégnon AMEGBOH
   Directeur de Cabinet of the President of the Republic

7. H.E. Mr. Kondé TAKASSI-KIKPA
   Ambassador, Special Representative of the current Chairman of ECOWAS in Guinea-Bissau

8. Colonel Gnakoudè BERENA
   ECOMOG Commander in Guinea-Bissau

Observer

H.E. Ms. Ulla ANDRÉN
Ambassador of Sweden in Guinea-Bissau

Annex II

CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

The undersigned:

His Excellency General João Bernardo VIEIRA, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau,

and

His Excellency General Ansumane MANE, Supreme Commander of the self-proclaimed military junta,

Considering that the undersigned deplore the resumption of fighting in Guinea-Bissau since 31 January 1999,

Considering that the hostilities have resulted in significant losses of human life, population displacements and many instances of material damage,

Considering that it is essential to end the hostilities and to resume the process of peace and reconciliation in accordance with the Praia and Abuja Agreements and with the Lomé additional protocol,

Agree as follows:

1. A ceasefire shall be implemented and observed beginning at 3 p.m. on 3 February 1999;

2. The chiefs of staff of the two parties to the conflict agree to meet under the auspices of the Commander of the ECOMOG contingent in order to determine practical arrangements for the ceasefire;

3. The parties to the conflict authorize the immediate entry of the ECOMOG forces into Guinea-Bissau and pledge to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the deployment of this force.

Done in duplicate at Bissau
on 3 February 1999

(Signed) João Bernardo VIEIRA
President of the Republic

(Signed) Ansumane MANE
Supreme Commander of the
self-proclaimed military junta

In the presence of:

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
of Togo, representing the current Chairman of ECOWAS,
H.E. Mr. Gnassingbe EYADÉMA, President of the
Republic of Togo

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S/1999/174
19 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1132 (1997) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998 concerning Sierra Leone. In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone is required to report to the Council on notifications received from States on the export of arms and related matériel to Sierra Leone, as well as on notifications of imports of arms and related matériel made by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that the Committee received a notification on 12 February 1999 from the Government of Sierra Leone of the decision to import two helicopter gunships and a stated quantity of arms and arms matériel, which will be used for peacekeeping purposes. The entry point of the aforementioned equipment will be Lungi International Airport.

(Signed) Fernando Enrique PETRELLA
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997)
concerning Sierra Leone

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19 February 1999

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LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF PALESTINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice, the Security Council invite Nasser Al-Kidwa, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Security Council on Monday, 22 February 1999, regarding the agenda item "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".

(Signed) Marwan JILANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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UNITED NATIONS **S**

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19 February 1999
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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the declaration issued on 17 February 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

99-04497 (E) 190299 190299

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued in Brussels on 17 February 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The European Union remains deeply concerned about the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It recalls its declarations of 11, 19 and 27 August 1998 and reiterates that the current conflict can only be solved through a negotiated settlement acceptable to all Congolese that will allow the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries in the region to find peace, stability and democracy.

2. In view of some positive signals with regard to a possible signing of a ceasefire agreement the European Union is of the opinion that peace efforts should now be enhanced in order to bring about a speedy conclusion of such an agreement. The European Union welcomes President Kabila's preparedness to enter into negotiations with all parties to the conflict, including the rebel movement, and encourages him to conclude a ceasefire agreement as soon as possible. The European Union also urges all other parties involved in the conflict, both the rebel movement and external actors, to participate in a constructive manner in the ongoing peace efforts.

3. The European Union expresses once again its strong support for the regional peace initiatives undertaken among others in the framework of the Southern African Development Community and the Organization of African Unity as well as by President Chiluba. It emphasizes the need for a continuous and inclusive negotiating process and welcomes the establishing of two committees on border security issues and on a ceasefire agreement in January 1999 in this context. The European Union is supporting the regional peace efforts through the assistance of its Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Aldo Ajello, who is currently again on mission in some of the countries involved.

4. The European Union would be prepared to consider a rehabilitation programme for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in case of an effective cessation of hostilities, and internal progress on peace, democracy and respect for human rights. It welcomes the declaration by the President of the Security Council of 11 December 1998, expressing the preparedness of the Council to also consider, in the light of efforts towards peaceful resolution of the conflict, the active involvement of the United Nations to assist in the implementation of an effective ceasefire agreement and in an agreed process for a political settlement of the conflict.

5. The European Union once again reiterates its support for the principles of territorial integrity and the respect of sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbouring countries. It calls for negotiations of all the parties concerned, with a view to an urgent political solution to the conflict, leading to the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This settlement must rest on two pillars,

addressing (1) regional security problems, by finding a mechanism that meets the legitimate security concerns of neighbouring countries, and (2) the internal situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by initiating an all-inclusive political dialogue with the aim of establishing a democratic society in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. The European Union strongly condemns acts of violence perpetrated against the civilian population since the beginning of the crisis. It firmly calls on the conflict parties to respect human rights and humanitarian law. In this context the European Union hopes that the forthcoming mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Mr. Garreton, will help shed light on the consequences of the conflict on the human rights situation, and that it will contribute to enhanced cooperation between the international community and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in this field.

7. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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19 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward a copy of the letter (see annex) that the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milan Milutinovic, addressed to the Foreign Ministers of the member States of the Contact Group.

I also have the honour to kindly request you to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-04509 (E) 190299

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Annex

Having regard that the current talks in Rambouillet, France, have been initiated by the Contact Group, I wish to draw your attention to the requests made to us to accept a document, a military annex, namely foreign military troops on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Neither this issue nor the document, as far as we know, have been subject to discussion or approval by the Contact Group.

While the Rambouillet meeting has been proceeding, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has repeatedly been subjected to public threats of military aggression pronounced by high representatives of certain countries and organizations.

As these requests and threats have not been discussed or approved by the Contact Group, I am writing to you to seek protection from any such unacceptable and unfounded requests and threats. I should like to point out that they do not only contradict the efforts and political objectives of the Rambouillet talks, but they also represent a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of international relations.

(Signed) Milan MILUTINOVIC

Mr. Igor Ivanov
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
Moscow

Mme Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary of State of the
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Monsieur Hubert Vedrine
Ministre des affaires etrangères
de la République française
Paris

Mr. Joseph Fischer
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Vice-Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Bonn

Mr. Lamberto Dini
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic
Rome

Mr. Robin Cook
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
London

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 62 and 110
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 19 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters, the latest dated 5 October 1998 (A/53/460-S/1998/917) I have the honour to bring to your attention the following additional documented information regarding the continuous and systematic plundering of the religious, historical and cultural identity of the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus.

Consistently and methodically Turkey continues its unabated policy of altering the demographic character of occupied Cyprus through destruction, looting and pillaging of its copious archaeological and religious treasures, which form an integral part of the rich patrimony of the world.

More specifically,

- The new Church of the Holy Virgin Chryseleousa, Kato Kopia, has been converted into a mosque.

- The old Church of the Holy Virgin Chryseleousa, Kato Kopia, has been abandoned, looted and even stripped of its wall painted icons.

- The Church of the Archangel Michael, Rizokarpaso, has been abandoned and left to the mercy of looters.

- The Church of Saint Afxentiou, Komi Kebir, has been abandoned, looted of all its religious artifacts and stripped of all its wall painted icons.

The devastation of the cultural and religious heritage of occupied Cyprus is immense and well documented. As far back as 1982, in a series of articles in the Turkish weekly magazine Olay (26 April-12 May), Mehmet Yasin, a Turkish Cypriot journalist wrote the following: "Cyprus is being estranged from itself: the historic, environmental, communal, cultural structure is being spoiled." He continued and stated how this spoilage was taking place when he wrote "the vacant, unattended archaeological masterpieces are being pillaged".

Furthermore, in an essay entitled "Cyprus: The Loss of a Cultural Heritage" published by the University of Minnesota (Modern Greek Studies Yearbook, vol. 2, 1986), Michael Jansen, a journalist and Middle East analyst, writes: "though there has been continuing looting and export of antiquities and works of art, the major responsibility of what has taken place ... must be borne by the Turkish Cypriot side". Moreover, Michael Jansen states that the administration has been motivated to "Turkify the area [of Cyprus] under occupation. And to do this there has been an effort to remove Hellenic and Christian influences, and, in particular, vandalism of church properties".

As recently as 16 to 29 November 1998, writing in the prestigious magazine Art and Auction, Michael Jansen writes about "a great tidal wave of Cypriot art and antiquities that washed upon European shores in the 1970s and 1980s: in all, looters and smugglers carried off an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 icons, dozens of frescoes and mosaics, thousands of gold and silver candlesticks and chalices, wooden carvings and crosses and tens of thousands of items from archaeological digs". This is yet another example of the magnitude and scope of the crimes being perpetrated against the cultural patrimony of occupied Cyprus.

Even though these documented acts of wanton and systematic destruction are an affront to civilization and are in violation of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, they still continue to this day.

Turkey, as the occupying power responsible, should be made accountable and fully answerable for these illegal acts of destruction. The international community should stop tolerating this unacceptable situation of religious intolerance.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter conveyed to all human rights mechanisms and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 62 and 110, and of the Security Council.

Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant further to the issuance of the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the state reached in their implementation (S/1999/25), I have the honour to inform you that the Tunisian Government wishes to retain on the list of such matters the following two items:

The letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509);

The letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali HACHANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Tunisia to the United Nations

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